

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

God of creation, as the spring awakens the natural world to work and grow,

renew our commitment to work for the growth of your kingdom.

God of spirit, spring-clean our hearts and minds,

that our inner Lenten journeys may lead us into a deeper understanding of you, of ourselves and of your purposes for each of us.

God of balance, in this month of equinox, help us to find and maintain equilibrium on our journeys through this world.

Fred Rapley

We are sorry to say that the Revd. Fred Rapley has died after a long illness. He was a great support to Joy during her time as priest here and those who heard him preach and read his contributions to “Church Times” will remember the clear and relevant way in which he always presented the Gospel as “Good News”, always hoping that someone would be led to faith. Before he married Joy, his career had been varied – National Service, manager of a café, draper and gents’ outfitter, telephone–exchange operator, lay reader, curate in Tenterden and vicar in Sittingbourne in Kent. There he led a renewal ministry with much youth work. There too he officiated at the marriage of Gill and Anthony Reidy, so his link with this benefice goes back a long time. We send our love and sympathy to Joy in Martlesham.

Praise for and gratitude to the NHS

There has been a lot in the news about the decline in NHS care and criticism of specific hospitals. In the course of conversations people often tell me about the care they have received locally. I have been struck this winter by the number of really positive experiences patients have had and the sense of gratitude they have towards those who’ve helped them. Aubrey James, who many of you knew,

expressed the same feelings when I visited him. He wrote a poetic tribute to the Angels of Mercy who looked after him so lovingly.

Jane Hall

The thoughts of a dying man – Angels of Mercy

*As I lay breathless in my hospital bed,
angels of mercy have appeared by my head.
“Why me,” I ask, “an unearthly wretch,
should become the object of such care to rest?”
To them all, it seems that life should remain
as long as possible with freedom from pain.
No monies can ever compensate them
for the work they have to do;
doctors, intern students also do their best for you.
For the rest of us mere mortals,
we should be eternally grateful too.
Angels of Mercy – thank you for the help and comfort of my
final days. Life cannot exist without you.
Thank God that you are here for us when needed;
may He guide you in the work you have to do.*

Aubrey James (Ipswich Hospital - Nov. 2014)

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Kate Watts on the 16th January. A service to celebrate her life was held in Ashbocking church on 23rd January following her cremation. The church was packed with Kate’s family and friends.

Kate was born in 1959 in Kaduna, Nigeria. She grew up with her brothers and was a self-confessed tomboy. Kate attended Dale Hall Primary school in Ipswich, and later, secondary education at Copleston High school. As a child Kate learnt how to create intricate needlework patterns and showed a natural ability for needlework

and knitting. She demonstrated this even in the last few weeks of her life as she knitted poppies for Remembrance Day. Kate raised a substantial amount of money for the British Legion and poppies were worn in her honour at her funeral.

Kate enjoyed sport, especially tennis, badminton and trampoline. It was at the BT badminton club that she met her husband to be, Martin. The couple moved to Ashbocking and were married in All Saints church in 1990. They had two children, Emma in 1992 followed by David in 1994. Kate was a dedicated mum and gave up full-time work to look after them. When they joined Witnesham Primary school Kate volunteered as a helper, later becoming a classroom assistant and active member of the PTA.

Kate regretted not going to university and after settling in the village commenced an Open University course in science. Hard work paid off and she was awarded an honours degree in 2004 at Ely Cathedral. In the same year the family became proud owners of a black labrador named Shadow. Kate soon joined the dog-walking fraternity of Ashbocking, many of whom became close friends. Kate enjoyed gardening and watching the wildlife that visited. She also enjoyed singing, which she started at school, later joining the Ipswich Choral, and more recently the Witnesham Village Voices, many of whom were at Kate's funeral. She was also a member of the Women's Institute and was thrilled, during this time, to win a prize for the teddy bear that she had made.

Kate was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 and had to give up competitive sport, but this did not deter her optimism and determination, winning a medal in the Race for Life that year. She was very proud of her family, with Emma going off to university and graduating last year. Then she saw David off to Southampton to do mathematics.

We will always remember her as a positive and courageous person who will be missed by us all.

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The confirmation group is going well and we now have a firm date for the confirmation service - Sunday 21st June at 4pm. This will be led by Bishop Graeme Knowles, formerly Bishop of Sodor and Man and then Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

We wish to thank Sue Rubens for the years she has kindly delivered the church magazine. She has decided to stand down and Mike Surridge has offered to take on her round.

Coffee-mornings are well attended and most enjoyable, giving us a chance to catch up with neighbours and find out what is going on in the church. Thanks to Adine for February's, with lovely scones and clotted cream! The March meeting is on the 6th at John and Linda Pollards', Hawthorns, The Green (the bungalow at the end of Ashley Grange). All welcome.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

Richard Taylor gave a very informative talk entitled 'When the Yanks came to Debach on 30th January. It is hard to imagine the impact of the arrival of over 3,000 American servicemen on the villages of Debach and Clopton. The talk was full of interesting facts and was a great success. All the Heritage Project folders were on display for people to see. These records can be looked at in Clopton Church. If anyone has any information or old photos that we can copy please phone 737602.

The craft-mornings on the first Wednesdays of the month have been running for a year now. It would be great to have a few more people. Everyone is very friendly and you don't need to be creative-just come for a chat. The next session is on Wednesday 4th March from 10am until 1pm. The cost of £2 covers tea, coffee and biscuits and the hire of the hall.

Holy Communion on Sunday 8th March at 9.30 am will be at Thamaniya. A WARM welcome is guaranteed.

The March coffee-morning is on Wednesday 18th in the village hall from 10am until noon and will be hosted by Anne Pryke.
Doris Main

Church cleaning

Beryl Birchmore

Church flowers

No flowers in lent

OTLEY

At the family service in February, with the Scouts and the Cubs on parade, we celebrated Candlemas. By special request, Jane spoke about baptism, with props and cards she had distributed around the church, and the boys listened attentively, especially when James poured Coke, representing the Holy Spirit, into the mugs they had each brought. It was good to see so many people present on a freezing morning.

Karin Upson held an open day at her home for the Leprosy Mission which raised £182-50. She would like to thank everybody who attended or contributed towards this.

The Under 5s are holding a jumble sale on Sunday 8th March 10.0am - 12 noon at the village hall. There will be an entrance fee of £1 which includes tea or coffee (a rumble in the jumble is thirsty work, they say!). If anyone is having a Spring clear out of clothing or household items which they would like to donate, please call Vanessa on 07973 272185 or Claire on 07799 654342, who will be happy to collect.

We shall be holding another quiz-evening with supper on Saturday 28th March, when teams of eight will pit their wits against each other on a variety of subjects. This is always a very popular event. If you don't have a team of eight, smaller groups and individuals can be brought together on the night to make up teams, so everybody will be welcome. Tickets (to include supper) are £7-50 per adult and £5 for a child of 16 or under, and you can book by ringing Ruth

Farnhill tel. 890543 or Penny Clark tel. 890480. Doors will open at 7 o'clock for the quiz to start at 7.30pm, and there will be a bar.

And - advance notice - FFY are running a car boot sale on 24th May 9.0am - 12 noon at the village hall, £5 per pitch to pay on the day. Ring 890269.

The Gardening Club meets on 2nd March when Sue Robinson will be speaking about "The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens", a very famous partnership. Sue trained in garden-design.

The next monthly coffee-morning will be on Thursday 26th March at 9 Spring Park, the home of Ruth and Jonathan Farnhill, where you will receive a warm welcome.

Following on the heels of Junior TOPS' production of "Guys and Dolls", the Otley Players will be presenting the comic play "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward on 16th, 17th and 18th April, and tickets will be available from Joan Parish tel. 890715. This is a treat to look forward to.

Lorna Hunt died recently at her home in Bury St Edmunds. During her years in Otley she entered wholeheartedly into village life, serving as a member of the PCC, the W.I. and the Friendship Club. She was a very good cook, helping out at village events with her usual cheerful energy. We send condolences to her family.

On Thursday 26th March at 2 o'clock there will be a service of thanksgiving at church for the life of Aubrey James, with refreshments afterwards at Otley Hall.

Russell Ling has obtained prices from F.Masters Ltd, stonemasons in Woodbridge, to clean gravestones in our churchyard. They will depend on condition and Masters will inspect and quote, but rough estimates are £30 plus VAT for a cremation memorial and £50 plus VAT for a full-size stone (less if done on a regular basis). They will reduce the charge if a sufficient number of memorials can be done

at the same time. If you are interested in having a family stone cleaned, further information can be obtained on 01394 383158.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary:

8th March Jumble Sale – Under 5's
28th March Quiz Evening – St Mary's PCC

Church Flowers None in Lent

Church cleaning: Helen Jay/Rose Rogerson

Sidepersons' Rota:

1 st March	11.00am Family Service	Ruth Farnhill
15 th March	9.30am Holy Communion	Penny Clark
22 nd March	4.30pm Evening Praise	Richard Treloar

Burns Night

The Burns Night at Warrens Farm was a great success. Guests were welcomed to the barn by the sound of bagpipes played by Mr Jim Jarvie and a three-course meal of cockaleekie soup, haggis, neeps and tatties followed by tippy-laird trifle was provided by a brilliant team of helpers. The haggis was addressed in traditional style and toasts were made to the lads and lassies. We stripped the willow and dosey-doe'd to the music of "Instep" and everyone had great fun. The evening raised the tremendous sum of £945 for Age UK Suffolk as part of Nellie Sunaway's 2015 London Marathon fundraising challenge. If anyone would still like to support her, she has the following fundraising page:

[uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Fenella Sunaway](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Fenella_Sunaway)

Very many thanks to everyone who helped to organise and make the Burns Night such a great success and good luck to Nellie with her training and in the Marathon in April.

Junior TOPS – “Guys and Dolls” returns to Otley

Memories of TOPS' performance in 1991 were unnecessary as we watched Junior TOPS, inspired by Vanessa Ling and her team, rise brilliantly to the challenge of this lively and popular musical. The curtains opened to reveal the streets and lights of New York in

another super Nigel Dye-designed set. Nathan Cant's skill with the technical difficulties of sound and lighting grew with each of the three performances, as did the confidence of the caste.

The principals, some of whom had never attempted song or dance on stage, let alone combining the two, led the crap-shooters, Salvation army missionaries, and the Hot Box girls in the familiar, but challenging tunes. Terry Dye had fitted them out in very authentic costumes and they so obviously enjoyed themselves that we in the audience were well and truly caught up in the different threads of the story and the atmosphere of the city. Several of the caste played more than one role and more than one gender.

It was great entertainment and a tribute to a good deal of hard work by many people. Thank you, all of you, and well done! Junior TOPS has done much to bring young and old in the village together and to provide an opportunity for youngsters to have a go at something they might otherwise never experience.

SWILLAND

There are no imminent fundraising events. The next one is on 12th July when the choir with whom Anthony Reidy sings, Illuminati, will be giving a concert in the church in the afternoon. Tea will be served in the interval. Please put this date in your diaries.

I would like to thank everyone who so generously contributed to our appeal for the tower and organ during 2014. The tower is more or less finished and we hope to restore the organ this year. It will be a big job as the organ must be dismantled and removed. Repairs can then be done to the floor prior to its return.

Charles, Tracey and Fabian Ball will shortly be moving to a bungalow in Falkenham. This should prove easier for Charles and we wish them well in their new home.

There will be no flowers in Lent. Those on the flower rota (or anyone else!) are invited to help decorate the church for Easter, 5th April.

Ann Kent

RAINFALL – JANUARY

With the jet stream stuck just below the British Isles and low pressure systems coming in from the Atlantic, January was quite wet with 2.70 inches of rain in frequent small amounts. At the beginning of February the jet stream moved to the north bringing cold air and night frosts. We need frosts to kill off some unwanted pests. When horses were the main power unit on the farm frosts were essential to break down the ploughed land for the harrows to produce a seed bed. There were more spring-sown crops then as there was neither time nor machinery to drill the fields in the autumn before they became too wet.

Russell Ling

Flaunt your flowerbeds for St Elizabeth Hospice

Green-fingered supporters are needed to open their gardens to the public from May to September, in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice. By opening your garden for one morning or afternoon this summer you can make a difference and help the hospice continue to improve life for over 2,000 local people every year living with a progressive illness. The hospice is looking for a wide variety of displays. So whether your garden is traditional or contemporary, tranquil or tropical, cosy or large, why not invite others to admire your horticultural skills whilst raising funds? You could even get the village involved, with the whole community opening their gates and sharing their glorious gardens with the public.

If you would like to open your garden this summer, or for more information, please call 01473 723600 or email fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk .

St Elizabeth Hospice is an independent charity which provides services free of charge in East Suffolk and South Norfolk. The hospice costs millions of pounds a year to run, and relies on donations, fundraising and gifts in wills to meet the majority of this.

OTLEY HALL RETREAT DAY PROGRAMME

Saturday 11th April - Malcolm Guite, chaplain at Girton College, Cambridge

'Mariner! A voyage with Samuel Taylor Coleridge' - opening up spiritual themes of love, loss, recovery and prayer through his poetry.

Wednesday 15th April - Gordon Melvin - Enneagram part one

Tuesday 28th April - Canon Christopher Chapman
The poetry of Christina Rossetti

Retreat Days cost from £22 and include all refreshments and lunch. Contact [01473 890264](tel:01473890264) or events@otleyhall.co.uk for further information. Full programme available on our website www.otleyhall.co.uk

SMILE LINES

Mothers and teenagers

A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenage children out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."

Noah had problems too

When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you. For forty days he drove the Ark before he found a place to park.

Hard to find

Curate's wife: I'd like to open a joint account.

Bank staff: With your husband?

Curate's wife: Heavens, no. With someone who has some money!

ST. Patrick's Day (March 17th) Groaners

Q: Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

A: Regular rocks are too heavy.

Q: Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

A: Because they're always a little short.

Q: How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?

A: He's Dublin' over with laughter!

Q: What would you get if you crossed Christmas with St. Patrick's Day?

A: St. O'Claus!

"I married an Irishman on St. Patrick's Day."

"Oh, really?"

"No, O'Reilly!"



St ANGELA

It is not that long ago that most girls never had the chance to be educated. But one determined woman started the process, and her name was Angela Merici. She was born in Italy on 24 March 1474. Both her parents died when she was only 10, and then when Angela was 13 her elder sister died too, which led her to dedicate her life to God. When she was only 22 she started a school for young girls in her home town and this was so successful that she was invited to start schools in other places. Her faith led her to make pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to Rome.

It was when she was in Rome in 1524 that she suddenly lost her sight. Pope Clement VII asked her to stay in Rome to take charge of an order of nursing nuns but she refused and went home to Brescia. When she was almost 60 she started the Order of St Ursula, which is still involved in teaching today. Even though she was blind, St Angela Merici had a vision of what was possible with God's help.

SCHOOL SUBJECTS

This timetable has the lessons scrambled up – can you unravel the school subjects? Answers below.

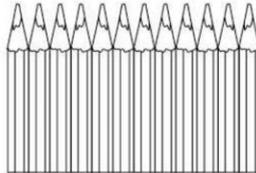
Period 1	CATESTHAMIM
Period 2	ROYTHIS
Period 3	GHELSIN
Period 4	CHNFER
LUNCH	
Period 5	RAT
Period 6	MYITCHERS
Period 7	MESAG

What did I get for my history test?

Well, first the good news – you spelled your name correctly.

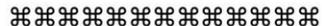
Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you?

Pupil: Not really.



What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet.



Answers: 1.Mathematics 2.History
3.English 4.French 5.Art 6.Chemistry
7.Games

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